

Women in the Army Comparative Statistics by War

WWII - Vietnam
US Army Women's Museum

WAAC/WAC World War II

WAAC. The bill authorizing the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps was enacted on 14 May 1942. Women began entering OCS and basic training at the First WAAC Training Center, Fort Des Moines, Iowa, in July 1942.

Strength of the WAAC:

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Officers</i>	<i>Enlisted</i>
31 December 1942	12,767	1,545	11,222
31 August 1943	50,603	5,067	45,536

Number of WAACs Serving Overseas:

31 January 1943	200	10	190
(All assigned to Algiers, North African Theater)			
31 August 1943	1,473	65	1,408
(Assigned to England and the North African Theater)			

WAC. The WAAC went out of existence on 31 August 1943 and was succeeded immediately by the Women's Army Corps (WAC)—which Congress made a bona fide part of the Army of the United States for the duration of the war plus six months.

Strength of the WAC:

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Officers</i>	<i>Warrant* Officers</i>	<i>Enlisted</i>
31 December 1943	57,731	5,856		51,875
31 December 1944	90,191	5,878	26	84,313
30 April 1945**	99,288	5,717	29	93,542
31 August 1945	90,779	5,752	55	84,972
31 December 1945	43,813	4,672	27	39,104

* The first WAC warrant officers were appointed in March 1944; they were WAC Band directors.

** Peak active duty WAC strength occurred in April 1945.

Number of WACs Serving Overseas:

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Officers</i>	<i>Warrant* Officers</i>	<i>Enlisted</i>
31 December 1944	13,817	855		12,982
30 April 1945	16,042	949		15,093
31 July 1945***	17,035	1,202		15,833
31 December 1945	4,462	590		3,872

*** Peak WAC strength serving overseas occurred in July 1945. The majority were in these theaters: ETO—8,316; Pacific—4,705; Africa and the Middle East—266; China – Burma, India—310; Mediterranean – 969; others – 1,839.

Strength of Minority WACs:

Black women formed the largest minority group within the WAC. By authorization of the Army, 10.6% were to be black women but the highest percentage achieved was 5.9%. Their peak strength came in December 1944, 120 officers and 3,290 enlisted women.

Black women were segregated in their basic training units and in units in the field. A battalion of approximately 800 women served in the 6888th Central Postal Battalion in England and later in France from February 1945 to January 1946. No black WAC units served elsewhere overseas during World War II. Segregation was discontinued in the Army in 1951.

Nisei women were recruited for the WAC but less than 50 served in the Corps between 1943 and 1945 as translators and in clerical positions.

Puerto Rican women were recruited in small numbers (approximately 200) because of language difficulties. They served primarily in postal directory units.

Source: Strength of the Army Reports, STM 30, 1942 – 1945. Treadwell, Mattie E., *The U.S. Army in World War II, Special Studies, The Women's Army Corps* (GPO, Washington, DC, 1954).

WAC Statistics Korean War Through Vietnam War

Following World War II, WAC strength had dwindled to 3,266 officers, warrant officers and enlisted women (30 June 1948). It was not until Congress passed the Women's Armed Forces Integration Act (PL 625, 12 June 1948), admitting women into the Regular Army and the Reserve, that recruiting could be resumed in earnest. By the time the Korean War began on 15 June 1950, Women's Army Corps strength had more than doubled to 7,259.

Korean War. The outbreak of the Korean War further increased WAC strength. As the United States Army hastened to rebuild its strength, WAC reservists (like other Army reservists not on active duty) were both voluntarily and involuntarily recalled to duty. When the Korean War entered the negotiation stage in 1952, WAC enlistments again dwindled as shown below.

<i>WAC Personnel World Wide</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Officers</i>	<i>Warrant Officers</i>	<i>Enlisted</i>
30 June 1950	7,249	676	22	6,551
30 June 1951	11,932	1,010	39	10,883
30 June 1953	9,924	1,109	55	8,760

No WAC unit was sent to Korea because the ground combat war raged up and down this small peninsula between 1950 and 1951. By the time Eighth Army commanders felt it was safe to establish a WAC unit in Korea (late 1952), Corps strength had fallen too low to establish and

maintain a unit there. However, about a dozen WACs, including one officer, served in Seoul and Pusan in secretarial, translator, and administrative positions in 1952 and 1953.

Though few WACs were stationed in Korea, many WACs served in support positions in Japan and Okinawa. Only two WAC detachments were in Japan in July 1950 but seven more were added by December 1953; another was established in Okinawa in 1951. Many WACs were serving at other overseas locations, supporting occupation forces.

WAC Personnel Overseas

	<i>1950</i>	<i>1951</i>	<i>1952</i>	<i>1953</i>
Far East	626	2,604	1,791	1,764
Europe	632	933	1,356	1,130
Caribbean	91	98	89	89

Women assigned to support units in Japan and Okinawa were telephone and teletype operators, drivers, translators, typists, supply and finance clerks, and many medical specialists and technicians. After the Korean armistice was signed in July 1953, WAC strength in the Far East fell to 972 (30 June 1954).

Following the Korean War, WAC strength stabilized as a proportion of total Army strength. Recruitment and training continued and, in 1954, Congress built a training center and school specifically for the WACs at Fort McClellan, Alabama (dedicated in September 1954). This raised total WAC strength from 7,803 in June 1954 to 8,661 by June 1956.

The Berlin Crisis (1961) and the Cuban Missile Crisis (1962) inspired brief upsurges in WAC recruiting, boosting the strength to over 9,500 on 31 December 1962. After these crises, WAC strength fell to 8,734 by 30 June 1964.

The Vietnam War

Vietnam War. It was not until the Army-wide build up for the war in Southeast Asia that WAC strength again rose significantly. In 1966, the Corps began a major recruiting campaign that was moderately successful.

World-Wide WAC Strength during the Vietnam War

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Officers</i>	<i>Warrant Officers</i>	<i>Enlisted</i>
30 June 1965	9,285	742	23	8,520
30 June 1967	10,592	817	34	9,741
30 June 1969	11,675	934	20	10,721
30 June 1971	12,781	937	19	11,825

In late 1964, requisitions began to arrive from Southeast Asia for the assignment of WACs. Very soon thereafter (January 1965) WAC officers were assigned as individual replacements at Headquarters, U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) and in Headquarters, U.S. Army, Vietnam (USARV). WAC enlisted women, primarily stenographers, also arrived that year.

In 1966, a WAC unit was established to support the major headquarters and their adjunct commands. The unit's average strength was approximately 100 between 1967 and 1972. The enlisted women performed duties as clerk-typists, supply clerks, and personnel specialists. WAC officers served in administrative, personnel, logistics, signal, transportation, intelligence, and other operational specialties.

Meanwhile, back in the United States, Congress removed the restrictions on the careers of women officers (1967) permitting them promotion up through the rank of general and the draft law ended (30 June 1973). To fill the manpower void created by loss of the draft, restrictions were loosened on the military occupational positions officers and enlisted women could hold and on the schools and colleges (including the U.S. Military Academy and all ROTC institutions) they could attend. These and other changes so improved opportunities for women in the Army that recruiting increased significantly every year. Even the disestablishment of the Women's Army Corps in 1978 did not deter enlistments.

World-Wide WAC Strength after the Vietnam War

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Officers</i>	<i>Warrant Officers</i>	<i>Enlisted</i>
30 June 1973	20,449	1,073	20	19,356
30 June 1974	27,596	1,249	19	26,328
30 June 1978	52,959	2,636	31	50,292

World-Wide Strength of WITA (less Medical Department)*

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Officers</i>	<i>Warrant Officers</i>	<i>Enlisted</i>
30 September 1982	67,495	3,703	160	63,632
30 September 1988	79,668	7,694	243	71,480
30 September 1991	75,973	8,220	521	67,232

*WITA – Women in the Army less those in the Medical Department.

Source: Statistics from Army DCSPER 46 Report, Part I, years shown.

Army Women on Active Duty and Deployed Overseas

		<i>Total Active</i>	<i>Total Overseas</i>	<i>Officers</i>	<i>Enlisted</i>
WWII	<i>30 Apr 1945</i>	140,000	16,042 *	949	15,093
Korea	<i>30 Jun 1951</i>	11,932	1,569 @	149	1,420
Vietnam	<i>30 Jun 1970</i>	12,518	109#	18	91
Grenada	<i>30 Nov 1983</i>	71,581	170#		
Panama	<i>31 Dec 1989</i>	89,803	770#		
Persian Gulf	<i>31 Mar 1991</i>	78,464	26,000# @@		

- * = WACs serving overseas on this date
- # = WACs or WITA serving in-country this date

- @ = WACs serving in the Far East Command this date
- @@ = Includes women in the Reserve and National Guard

Women Army Officer Gains through Each Procurement Source

	<i>USMA</i>	<i>ROTC</i>	<i>OCS</i>
1980	62	360	121
1984	83	630	71
1988	95	447	77
1991	93	372	45

- Of 11,700 USMA graduates between 1980-1991, 1,034 have been women (less than 1%)
- Of ROTC graduates, approximately 15% are women
- Of Army OCS graduates, approximately 13% are women

Source: Statistics from Army DCSPER 46 Report, Part I & II for years shown.

Women in the Army Comparative Statistics by Rank and MOS

1942-2001

US Army Women's Museum

Comparative Grade Structure Men and Women Officers

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Gen</i>	<i>Col</i>	<i>LTC</i>	<i>Maj</i>	<i>Cpt</i>	<i>1/Lt</i>	<i>2/Lt</i>
30 Sept 1978								
Men	77,535	431	4,346	10,770	15,614	25,912	9,222	11,240
Women	2,636	1	17	44	97	645	678	1,157
30 Sept 1991								
Men	76,731	386	4,500	9,828	15,901	27,606	10,877	7,633
Women	6,329	2	22	178	861	2,820	1,434	1,012

Comparative Grade Structure Top Six Grades Enlisted Men and Women

	<i>Total</i>	<i>E9</i>	<i>E8</i>	<i>E7</i>	<i>E6</i>	<i>E5</i>	<i>E4</i>
30 Sept 1978							
Men	402,956	3,718	12,383	44,924	68,612	109,464	163,855
Women	25,148	21	77	384	1,361	9,134	14,171
30 Sept 1991							
Men	454,129	4,217	13,585	52,357	83,035	118,159	182,776
Women	49,541	74	483	3,604	8,037	13,284	24,059

Women Officer Branch Assignments

	<i>30 Sept 1978</i>	<i>30 Sept 1984</i>	<i>30 Sept 1991</i>
Air Defense	-	174	259
Field Artillery	-	153	66
Chemical	47	121	229
Engineer	64	156	235
Ordnance	233	575	653
Quartermaster	303	638	694
Signal	374	661	841
Transportation	211	355	442
Adjutant General	589	885	729
Finance	113	189	190
Military Police	206	386	429
Intelligence	422	726	856
Judge Advocate	63	172	266
Aviation	-	199	254
Chaplain	7	17	32
Other	-	-	156

Enlisted Women by Military Occupational Specialties(MOS)

	<i>June 1978</i>	<i>Sept 1991</i>
Administration	13,018	14,483
Aircraft Maintenance	800	699
Air Defense Operations	95	516
Air Defense Maintenance	48	114
Ammunition	406	761
Automatic Data Processing	758	905
Aviation Operations	128	690
Bands	331	353
Chemical Engineering	457	360
Chemical Operations	199	671
Electronic Maintenance	1,101	35
Field Artillery	170	64
Food Service	3,259	3,185
Intercept Support Maintenance	38	91
Land Air Defense Systems	-	347
Mechanical Maintenance	2,126	2,922
Medical	7,780	11,529
Military Intelligence	2,053	2,177
Military Police	684	1,570
Petroleum and Water	296	1,621
Public Affairs	506	258
Recruitment and Reenlistment	256	336
Signal Intelligence	-	1,523
Signal Intelligence, Electronic Opns	2,056	2,529
Signal Maintenance	-	904
Signal Operations	4,963	4,636
Supply and Services	4,567	9,236
Topographic Engineerings	118	254
Transportation	3,083	3,210
Visual Information		350
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Totals	49,425	67,232

Source: Statistics from Army DCSPER 46 Report, Part I, years shown.

Women Selected for Senior Academies and Colleges

	<i>FY 1978</i>	<i>FY1982</i>	<i>FY1986</i>	<i>FY 1990</i>
Sergeants Major Academy				
Women	0	4	14	33
Total	368	399	485	758
Senior Service Colleges				
Women	2	2	3	6
Total	286	295	297	313
Command and General Staff				

Women	13	11	43	86
Total	1,040	1,537	957	957

Men and Women Selected for Command Assignments

FY 1988 FY 1990

Combat Arms

Men

COL	83	79
LTC	252	68

Women

COL	0	0
LTC	0	0

Combat Support Arms

Men

COL	43	115
LTC	76	38

Women

COL	1	11
LTC	1	2

Combat Service Support

Men

COL	66	110
LTC	105	66

Women

COL	1	4
LTC	1	2

- Women are not eligible for command assignments in the Combat Arms (Infantry, Armor, Field Artillery)

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Source: Annual Assessment of Military Programs for Fiscal Years shown, Office Deputy Chief of Staff Personnel, Equal Opportunity Branch.

Women in the Army Comparative Statistics by Year

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US Army Women's Museum

Comparison of the Active Army by Percentage

	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
FY 1972	97.9%	2.1%
FY 1974	96.1	3.9
FY 1978	92.5	7.5
FY 1982	90.4	9.6
FY 1986	89.7	10.3
FY 1990	89.1	10.9
FY 1991	88.8	11.2

Composition of the Women on Active Duty by Percentage

1948-1972	1 - 1.9%
1973	2.6%
1980	8.9%
1983	9.8%
1993	12.6%
1994	12.9%
1995	13.3%
1996	14.2%
1999	14.8%
2001	15.9%

Composition of Women on Active Duty by Number

Jun 1942	12,767
Jun 1943	60,243
Jun 1944	77,152
Jun 1945	95,957
Jun 1946	17,896
Jun 1947	8,134
Jun 1948	5,352
Jun 1949	4,909
Jun 1950	7,259
Jun 1951	11,932
Jun 1952	11,456
Jun 1953	9,924
Jun 1954	7,803
Jun 1955	8,640
Jun 1956	8,661
Jun 1957	8,007
Jun 1958	7,853
Jun 1959	8,608

Jun 1960	9,053
Jun 1961	9,369
Jun 1962	9,549
Jun 1963	9,056
Jun 1964	8,734
Jun 1965	9,285
Jun 1966	9,958
Jun 1967	10,592
Jun 1968	11,604
Jun 1969	11,675
Jun 1970	12,518
Jun 1971	12,781
Jun 1972	13,269
Jun 1973	17,551
Jun 1974	27,596
Jun 1975	39,171
Sep 1976	46,413
Sep 1977*	48,548
Sep 1978	52,996
Sep 1979	57,919
Sep 1980	64,916
Sep 1981	69,011
Sep 1982	67,480
Sep 1983	71,154
Sep 1984	72,250

*End of fiscal year changed from 30 June to 30 September in 1977.

Source: Strength of the Army Reports (STM-30) June 1942 - 1959 & (DCSPER 46) June 1960 - 1984.

You will notice that around 1973, the number of women serving started to increase. This was primarily due to the end of the draft for men after Vietnam and men's reluctance to join the Army. Also the Women's Rights Movement had an impact. By 1969, the movement garnered wide media and public support. This eventually resulted in more opportunities for women.

In August 1972, all military occupational specialties (MOSs) opened to WAC officers and enlisted women except those that might require combat training or duty. The advent of the All-Volunteer Force in 1973 made a large difference in the numbers of women coming into the Army. As a result of recruitment and greater opportunities, the total number of WACs in the Army increased from 13,269 in 1972 to 52,996 in 1978.

Army women had been allowed to rig parachutes during World War II, but could not participate in parachute jumps. In 1950 a Parachute Rigger Course (later designated MOS 43E) was added to the Quartermaster School curriculum at Fort Lee, Virginia. It was not initially open to female soldiers, however, since they were not "jump-qualified." That changed in 1972 when 43E was added to WAC active duty list of available MOSs. Within months female soldiers were graduating from the

parachute rigger course, assigned to airborne units around the country, and were jumping with their own chutes.

The move to the All-Volunteer Force likewise led the Army to begin recruiting women aggressively for the Reserve components. As with the active force, recruiting, training, and opportunities improved for women, and by the end of September 1978, the Army Reserve had approximately 25,000 WACs and the Army National Guard had over 13,000.

Women in the Army Comparative Statistics Extras

1942-2001

US Army Women's Museum

The Women's Army Corps and Women in the Army after World War II

Regular Army Status:

On 12 June 1948, President Truman signed into law the Women's Armed Services Integration act that permitted women in the Regular Army and the Organized Reserve corps (later the US Army Reserve). Demobilization had by then reduced WAC strength to 611 officers, 41 warrant officers and 4,699 enlisted women. But WAC enlistment and reenlistment reopened promptly that summer, after having been closed in 1945, and, in July 1948, training began again for enlisted women and officers at the WAC Training Center, Fort Lee, Virginia.

The Korean War:

As the Korean conflict began in June 1950, WAC strength had increased to approximately 7,300 officers and enlisted women. New WAC units were established in Japan and Okinawa to help provide logistical and administrative support for the men fighting in Korea. Because of the constant movement of combat operations on the small peninsula, a WAC unit was not stationed in Korea during the war but a dozen WAC officers and enlisted women were assigned as individuals to perform stenographic and interpreting tasks in Seoul and Pusan. In July 1953, an armistice was signed ending combat operations in Korea. Women continued to serve in Japan and Okinawa.

An All-New Training Center for the WACs at Fort McClellan:

In 1951 Congress appropriated funds to build a permanent home for the Women's Army Corps at Fort McClellan, Alabama. The WAC Center and WAC School complex was dedicated in September 1954 by General Matthew B. Ridgway, Chief of Staff of the Army. The Center and School conducted basic training, clerical, stenography, personnel specialist, leadership and cadre courses for enlisted women and basic and advanced training courses for WAC officers.

The Vietnam War:

Soon after the United States became involved in South Vietnam, Lt Col Kathleen I. Wilkes and Master Sergeant Betty L. Adams arrived in Saigon in January 1965 to serve as advisors on training and administrative matters to the Vietnam Women's Armed Forces Corps. The tour of duty for the advisors (as well as all others assigned to Vietnam) was one year and they were replaced annually. In September 1966, a WAC detachment with an average strength of 90 enlisted women was assigned to Headquarters, US Army, Vietnam, stationed first at Tan Son Nhut and then at Long Binh.

All women who served in Vietnam volunteered for duty there; in fact, many more volunteered than could be used. Spaces for fill by women were very limited. Had women been fully integrated into Army units as they were by the time of DESERT STORM in 1991, many more would have served in Vietnam. In October 1972 when other U.S. troops began to be withdrawn, the WAC Detachment

closed. In addition to the detachment, many WAC officers and enlisted women served in Saigon with Headquarters, Military Assistance Command, and other commands. Approximately 600 WACs served in Vietnam between 1965 and 1973.

Women Generals:

On 8 November 1967, Congress passed a law removing promotion and other career restrictions on women officers, making it possible for women officers in all Services to achieve general officer (or flag) rank. Up to this time, only one WAC officer could hold the rank of colonel—the Director WAC—other officers served as lieutenant colonels and below. The first WAC officer to be promoted to brigadier general on 11 June 1970 was Elizabeth P. Hoisington, then serving as Director WAC. Nine other women (including a black officer) have since been promoted to brigadier general. Mary E. Clarke was promoted to major general and served as commander of a major U.S. Army post before retiring in 1981.

WAC Expansion Begins:

A major campaign to increase WAC strength began in 1972 to help the Army maintain its required numbers after the draft law ended on 30 June 1973—this would initiate a truly all-volunteer Army. As a result of an intense recruiting effort and the opening of all Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) to women except those involving combat duty or extraordinary strength, WAC strength increased from 13,269 on 30 June 1972 to 52,996 on 30 September 1978. To accommodate the heavy input of recruits, a WAC basic training brigade was activated at Fort Jackson, SC, on 1 October 1973. Integration was going so well, the Army decided to consolidate basic training for men and women. This began on 1 September 1977 but four years later was judged to be ineffective and separate basic training for men and women was reinstated in 1981.

In December 1977, the Army issued a *combat exclusion policy* that permitted women to hold certain combat support MOS in some units. In 1981, it assigned a combat probability code to each MOS—the highest probability code excluded women.

Weapons Training:

In 1963, weapons training courses for WAC officers and enlisted women were discontinued because the Army switched from a lightweight rifle (carbine) to the heavier M14 rifle. Thereafter, women received only a two or three hour familiarization course on weapons used by combat troops. In 1974, because many newly opened MOS required patrol, guard duty, and rear area security, the Army again included a defensive weapons course in WAC training programs. Firing the weapons became mandatory in 1975 after women enlisting, re-enlisting, or being commissioned in the Regular Army, Reserve, and National Guard were advised that they would be required to take weapons training and fire the weapons.

Discontinuance of the Office of the Director WAC and the Women's Army Corps:

As a means of assimilating women more closely into the structure of the Army and to eliminate any feeling of separateness for women, Congress discontinued the office of the Director WAC on 28 April 1978. It later disestablished the Women's Army Corps as a separate corps of the Army on 20 October 1978.

The Grenada Relief Expedition:

On 25 October 1983, the President ordered U.S. military forces (Operation Urgent Fury) to the Caribbean Island of Grenada to rescue hundreds of American students. Approximately 100 Army women (nurses are not included) served in this operation that ended in mid-December 1983. The Grenada experience led the Secretary of Defense to issue the Standard Risk Rule that required pre-evaluation of the risk of women's exposure to hostile fire or capture when deciding when assignments should be open to women.

Panama (Operation Just Cause):

On 20 December 1989, the President ordered U.S. military forces to Panama to overthrow the dictator and drug czar of Panama. Approximately 600 Army women were among the 26,000 troops involved. They helped provide transportation, military police, military intelligence and logistical support to the combat troops. The troops returned to the U.S. by April 1990. Many women who served in this action, were exposed to hostile fire-particularly women serving with Military Police units.

The Persian Gulf War (Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm):

On 2 August 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait and occupied it. United Nations Forces began an air offense against Iraq on 17 January 1991 and a ground offense on 24 February 1991. Three days later Iraq surrendered. Some 26,000 Army women served in Saudi Arabia; 14 Army women died there (six from enemy fire). Two women, a truck driver and a flight surgeon were held prisoner of war by Iraqi troops, both received the Purple Heart for combat injuries.

Two Army women commanded battalions, an MP Battalion and a Material Maintenance Battalion, during DESERT STORM. Women also commanded units, aircraft squadrons, platoons and squads in a variety of units.

Female national guard and reservists performed a variety of jobs including those in medical, chemical defense and decontamination, transportation, construction, maintenance, supply, communications, legal, law enforcement and POW control, and vehicle traffic control, administration, civil affairs, intelligence, military history, public affairs, postal, graves registration and rear area operations control. Two USAR women (14th QM Detachment, Greensburg, PA) and one National Guard woman (142nd Medical Co, Connecticut National Guard) were killed in action.

Congressional Action on Combat Exclusion for Women:

As a result of women's service in Grenada, Panama, and the Persian Gulf, the Defense Authorization Act of 1992 eliminated the 1948 act that excluded Navy and Air Force women from serving in combat unit. The 1948 act left the assignment of women up to the Secretary of the Army. In effect that is what the authorization act did - left the assignment of women up to the service secretary. The act also required the appointment of a Presidential commission to study the combat exclusion law that banned women from combat naval ships and women in the Navy, Air Force, and Army from combat flight training. The Commission's report recommended no ground combat assignments and no combat aviation assignments for women be made a matter of law but that the

law banning women on assignments to combat naval ships, except submarines and amphibious ships, be repealed. The Commission's report languished because the president who convened the group was not reelected (Bush). In April 1993, the new Secretary of Defense (Les Aspin) lifted the ban on women in combat aviation but banned their assignment to direct ground combat. On 24 July 1994, the 1988 Risk Rule was rescinded but precluded women from units that engage the enemy on the ground with weapons when they are exposed to hostile fire or a high probability of direct contact with the enemy.

As of this date (September 2000), the Army rules regarding women in combat remain in effect: women cannot be assigned to units that engage in direct ground combat; units that serve side-by-side with ground combat units; units in which most women cannot withstand their physical demands, combat aviation units, in special operations forces; and in multiple launch rocket system units.

Somalia, Operation Restore Hope:

In 1992, President Bush ordered American troops to Somalia, part of a UN Force, to assist in humanitarian aid to the people of Somali. Servicewomen and men were trained to cope with food riots, terrorist and ethnic conflicts in the country where hunger and anarchy ruled. Operation Restore Hope concluded on 28 April 1993.

Haiti: Operation Uphold Democracy:

In 1994 the Joint Chiefs of Staff ordered military personnel into Haiti to install the elected president who was being forcibly prevented from serving in his elected position. Meanwhile an arrangement was made that the corrupt military leaders would resign in return for amnesty and the troops would remain in Haiti to insure stability of the country. The operation ended in 1999.

Bosnia: Operation Provide Promise & Joint Endeavor:

Under a peace agreement in 1995 between warring parties (Muslims and Serbs) in Yugoslavia, U.S. Forces acted as UN peacekeepers. Land mines, disease, and injury were major hazards in Bosnia, especially in a four-kilometer no man's land between the Bosnian Serb Army and the Croat and Bosnian government forces. Army women serve with UN troops in this on-going action: including units from the 54th QM Co (from Fort Lee), the 84th Combat Stress Detachment, the 102nd QM Co (from Fort Campbell), the 403rd Transportation Co, the 55th Signal Co, the 319th MI Battalion, the 303rd MI Battalion and others.

Kosovo: Operation Allied Force (March-June 1999) & Joint Guardian (June 1999-):

Allied Forces began bombing the military and security organizations that participated in violence lead by Yugoslavian President Milosevic against the Serbian forces. He and his Kosovo supporters demanded independence from Serbia. Thousands of Kosovo Albanians fled into neighboring countries. UN Forces helped return these people to their homes. When peace was restored, the Allied Force bombing was halted in June 1999.

Since June 1999, the U.S. European Command has provided forces and logistical support to Operation Joint Guardian the NATO peacekeeping operation in Kosovo.

Army women serve in many roles in support of the Kosovo operation. U.S. Forces assigned to the Kosovo Forces are called “Task Force Falcon.”

Source: (Unless otherwise noted) *US Army in World War II, Special Studies, The Women's Army Corps* (Treadwell); *The Women's Army Corps, 1945 - 1978* (Morden); and the US Army Women's Museum archives.